

TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE FIRST
CLASS RYAN HILL

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2007

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, I am here today in this hallowed hall with a heavy heart and troubled spirit.

Here, but a few hours ago, we assembled in keeping with an annual ritual that proclaimed our Union to be strong, our nation to be sound.

Sadly, I must contest that notion.

We are not as strong as we could be, as we should be, we are not what we would be without Private First Class Ryan Hill.

For this past week, Private Hill was killed in Baghdad, Iraq. As a member of the 1st Infantry Division, he and his unit were performing duties in keeping with our efforts to foster peace and stability.

America lost someone special when we lost Ryan. He represented the better angels of our nature, he was the kind of young American we need more, not less.

Immediately following high school, Private First Class Hill joined the military to fight for his country, his community—to fight for his family and friends.

Far too often we find ourselves standing here, recognizing the loss of heroes.

Private Hill died while on patrol. Using an improvised explosive device—a weapon without honor, without conscience—our enemies stole from us the America that would have been.

Right now, the community of Keizer, Oregon is seeking comfort in the life and noble sacrifice of Ryan Hill.

This we must do; he answered the call of service voluntarily and fulfilled his duty without hesitation, without complaint.

Private First Class Hill was a model soldier, he was the kind of young man that made everyone around him better.

In correspondence home, he recognized the dangers—he knew well the price of freedom—and yet he soldiered on despite his situation.

His enthusiasm and compassion made Ryan a beacon of hope for his comrades in arms in the shadow of the loss of several friends just a short time ago.

That shadow is now a little denser, a little darker—it reaches farther than before. And this shadow makes the future, our future, less than what it would have been.

I am here today asking us all to consider well the choices before us. We have an opportunity to ensure the life and death of Private Ryan Hill are not forgotten, that his sacrifice endures within our memory.

Let us recommit ourselves to making this Nation a place worthy of the gift Ryan Hill has given us; let us commit ourselves anew.

RECOGNIZING REVEREND DOCTOR
HERMAN M. WILLIAMSON

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2007

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to acknowledge the out-

standing lifelong accomplishments of Reverend Doctor Herman M. Williamson. A resident of Havre de Grace, Maryland, Reverend Dr. Williamson is a native of Evergreen, North Carolina, where he attended public schools and graduated with honors. After moving to Baltimore, Maryland, he completed studies at the Cortez Peters Business College. Reverend Dr. Williamson continued his education in engineering and administrative procedures in the Officers School while serving for five years in the United States Army. After his military service, Reverend Dr. Williamson attended Morgan State College.

After moving to Havre de Grace, Maryland, he joined and attended St. James A.M.E. Church before being called to the ministry. Reverend Dr. Williamson decided to return to his roots in the Baptist Church and joined Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church. He was licensed to preach and served as Assistant Pastor to the late Reverend Milton C. Phillips. During this time, he completed his course of study at the Maryland Bible Institute. He was called to the pastorate of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church on October 25, 1974 and two days later accepted the pulpit of the Havre de Grace church.

Over the years, Reverend Dr. Williamson has been an advocate of faithful service and positive change to assist the members of his church and the residents of Harford County. His outreach to the communities in and surrounding Havre de Grace has been unsurpassed. He supported and was instrumental in the establishment of the Harford County Fuel Fund, the Harford County Food and Nutrition Program and the St. James Cemetery Preservation Council. He is President Emeritus of the Deacon and Deaconess Union of Baltimore, Harford and Cecil Counties and President Emeritus of the Ministerial Alliance of Baltimore, Harford and Cecil Counties. He has also served as auditor of the United Baptist Missionary Convention and Auxiliaries for the State of Maryland, Inc.

Reverend Dr. Williamson was the first black chaplain appointed to serve the Harford County Detention Center. He served on the Executive Board of the Harford Interfaith Community Service, Inc., the Neighbor to Neighbor Summit Advisory Committee for Harford County and the Hicks Advisory Board of Harford County. He was granted an Honorary Doctoral Degree from the Bread of Life Ministries in Whiteville, North Carolina, in February 2002. In early 2007, Reverend Dr. Williamson was the recipient of the Joseph Bond Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award from Harford County.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today in congratulating Reverend Dr. Herman Williamson for his lifelong and caring devotion to the people of Havre de Grace, Harford County, and the State of Maryland.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF NYS
ASSEMBLYMAN JOHN LAVELLE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring to the House's attention the tremendously sad news of the passing of a dear

friend and fellow public servant. I rise today also to honor the memory, and take note of the tireless public service of, my good friend, the late New York State Assemblyman Jack Lavelle.

Jack and I were colleagues in the New York State Assembly from 2000, when he arrived as a freshman, until the end of 2004, when I left Albany after my initial election to Congress.

Madam Speaker, I do not exaggerate when I recount that it was a tremendous honor to serve with Jack, for I greatly valued his counsel, leadership, and friendship. More than that, what I will miss most about Jack is his tremendously warm and kindhearted spirit.

We always knew where Jack was from—his beloved borough of Staten Island. More importantly, Jack never forgot where he was from. Despite being from opposite ends of the state and being of different generations, Jack and I shared a commitment to our respective communities that I am proud to believe was very similar. Both of us were fortunate to learn early on that when you remember where you come from, when you follow the rules, love your family, and give back to your community anything is possible. Jack Lavelle was living proof of that.

Jack's public career was well known, and the respect Jack enjoyed from leaders throughout the state was impressive. Jack's history of community involvement is far too long to list in its entirety, but his work with countless educational committees, community boards and medical advisory councils were well known and well respected.

In November 2000, Jack's succession of revered Assemblywoman Betty Connelly allowed him to continue her legacy of commitment to Staten Island. So many of Jack's successes in Albany involved education, where he made great strides toward the improvement of New York City's public schools.

Jack always spoke with tremendous pride about his family, including his three sons, John, Christopher, and Danny and his grandchildren Jacob, Zachary and Julia. I am certain that all members of the House join with me to offer our most sincere condolences to Jack's family, lost so suddenly as he was.

When I think back about Jack, I think of how tremendously kind he was to me. Although ten years my senior in age, Jack often called me "Governor," because he always said, "Kid, you're going somewhere." When I announced my run for an open Congressional seat in 2004, Jack was among the first to call and offer encouragement. His friendship and support were as genuine as can be.

We all join with Jack's family in mourning his loss, and remain confident that the good work that he did, both in Staten Island and in Albany, has left a powerful legacy for many years to come. Rest in peace, Jack Lavelle; your work here is done, but your legacy will live on for years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CÉSAR E.
CHÁVEZ POST OFFICE ACT

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 29, 2007

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great man who stood